The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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There is no education like adversity.—Beaconsfield.

WHOLE NO. 999. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 12.

MORALE IS DRIVING FORCE FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP

The spirit of a movement is everything. Numbers are secondary.

When the spirit—the courage, the will to do, the power to initiate, the confidence in one's self and his cause—is destroyed, the effectiveness of the movement ends.

These spiritual forces constitute "morale."

Morale is given first place by every military scientist. No one is a better judge of the value of morale than men who direct armies upon which the life of a nation—and often a civilization—depends.

Napoleon said morale, as compared with all other factors, is, in importance, as three is to one.

Marshal Foch, chief of the Allied forces in the World War, said: "Proofs and instances could be given indefinitely of the great importance of morale in war."

Military scientists agree that when morale is destroyed an army is disorganized and defeat invariably follows.

The power of morale is as true in peace as well as in war.

We are told that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." This is another way of saying that the church grew when men "carried on" regardless of consequences.

Every business man strives to inculcate his organization with this faculty to act, to do, to overcome obstacles, while at the same time working with the organization.

Morale in the trade unions is equally of first importance. A labor organization without spirit is ineffective. It has permitted an invincible power to pass.

The larger anti-union employers are alert to the power of morale. They may not be capable—as the military scientist—of explaining this psychological fact, but they know the value of discouraging trade union employes.

Military strategists strive to destroy the morale of their foe by impressing him with the hopelessness of his cause. The anti-union employer has the same objective.

He no longer openly combats the union. He weakens its morale by the injunction and by giving workers "something just as good." The substitutes include the company "union," life insurance that the workers are told is free, stock ownership and various forms of paternalism.

These employers act on the military theory that a foe is defeated if he can be impressed with his inferiority—if he concedes that he is in a losing fight.

The employer knows that victory is largely a matter of will, and that if unionists' will power is snapped, their organization will be weakened and eventually be destroyed.

This new warfare permits anti-union employers to pose as advocates of unionism. They have abandoned force and center their efforts to destroy the workers' will.

Trade unionists should keep in mind the value of morale. Any group of men, whether large or small, who possess a morale, are "on their toes." They are known as "fighters."

Any group, be it religious, labor, business, fraternal or military, that is inactive and pleads that "nothing can be done," has no morale. Its spirit is broken and it is useless as an aggressive unit.

RAIL LABOR ACT UPHELD; COMPANY "UNION" JOLTED

Washington, May 31.—The United States Supreme Court upheld the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks in its long fight against the Texas & New Orleans Railroad (a subsidiary of the Southern Pacific) for the right of members to select their own representatives in wage negotiations.

The decision is a repulse to rail managements that enforce company "unions" on employes.

The Supreme Court sustained the Federal District Court and the Circuit Court of Appeals in their approval of the Railway Labor Act, passed by Congress in 1926, which declares that rail managements shall treat with representatives of workers who are selected by these employes.

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks showed that when they were negotiating a wage scale, the company instigated the formation of a "union" known as the "Association of Clerical Employes—Southern Pacific Lines." The company endeavored to intimidate Brotherhood members and to coerce them to withdraw from it and to make the company "union" their representative in dealings with the company. Such action, the Brotherhood showed, prevented them from freely designating their representative by collective action, and violated the intent of Congress.

Both lower courts were impressed by a letter written by H. M. Lull, executive president of the railroad company, to A. D. McDonald, its president, under date of May 24, 1927, in which he stated that the demand of the Brotherhood would mean an increased pay roll of $340,000 per annum, and that "I am satisfied we can make settlement with our own employes (through the company 'union') at a cost not to exceed $75,000 per annum."

Chief Justice Hughes delivered the opinion of the court. He called attention to the activity of the rail management in promoting the company "union," and declared that these activities constituted an actual interference with the liberty of the clerical employes in the selection of their representatives."

The purpose of Congress, in passing the railway labor act, said Chief Justice Hughes, was to provide voluntary machinery for the prevention of strikes. Such voluntary action, he insisted, is impossible where one of the parties is intimidated or coerced.

"The legality of collective action on the part of employes in order to safeguard their proper interests is not to be disputed," continued the Chief Justice. "Congress was not required to ignore this right of the employes, but could safeguard it and seek to make their appropriate collective action an instrument of peace rather than of strife. Such collective action would be a mockery if representation were made futile by interference with freedom of choice.

"Thus the prohibition by Congress of interference with the selection of representatives for the purpose of negotiation and conference between employers and employes, instead of being an invasion of the constitutional right of either, is plainly within the recognition of the rights of both."

The company insisted that the Supreme Court has created a right to deal that railroads have been conceded the right to select its employes or discharge them.

Chief Justice Hughes replied: "The statute (railway labor act) is not aimed at this right of the employers, but at the interference with the right of employes to have representatives of their own choosing. As the carriers subject to the act have no constitutional right to interfere with the freedom of the employes in making their selections, they cannot complain of the statute on constitutional grounds."

Japanese Quota "Rights" Urged; Untruths Tend To Confuse Issue

Washington, May 31.—Agitation for placing Japan in the immigration quota list is renewed because of a speech delivered in Tokyo by Masanao Hanihara, former ambassador to the United States.

Cables from Japan quote Hanihara as saying that feeling against the United States "will never die out so long as the wound inflicted (restricting Japanese immigration) remains unhealed."

Commercial interests in this country that trade with Japan are favoring admission of Japanese and the theory that the United States has discriminated against that country is being vehemently urged.

The law complained of was passed in 1924. It makes no mention of Japan, but provides that no alien who can not acquire citizenship status can be admitted. Under present laws and Supreme Court decisions whites and Negroes alone can be admitted to citizenship.

The 1924 law applies to all Far East peoples and races—Chinese, Koreans, Japanese and Hindus.

If Japanese are admitted, the other Far East peoples are discriminated against, and to do them justice, the bars to Asiatic immigration must be removed. Japanese influence in this country conceal this fact, and confuse the issue by unconvincing reading that the 1924 law is a direct attack on the Japanese people and their nation.

If that country is to be placed on the quota list, there is no reason why the same treatment should not be accorded China and Korea. It is significant that Australia openly boasts that it bars Asiatics because it is determined to remain a "white man's country."

No objection is raised by Japan, which acknowledges that Australia is within her international rights.

In the case of the United States, however, little Americans join with Japan in taking a contrary attitude, and ignore the fact that while Japanese are debarred, the same applies to all other Orientals.

RAIL COMPANY "UNION" WRECKED

The United States Supreme Court's decision in the case of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks versus the Texas and Pacific Railroad will have a far-reaching effect on company "unions."

The Railway Labor Act prohibits railroads from interfering with rail employes in selecting representatives to negotiate wage scales. The rail management organized a company "union" for this purpose and the court upheld decisions by two lower courts that this is a violation of the railroad law.

Voluntary action is impossible under the company "union" system, the railroad's activities constituted "an actual interference with the liberty of the clerical employes in the selection of their representatives," said Chief Justice Hughes.

The decision is the hardest blow that has been given the company "union." Its pretense is unmasked.

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks has performed a distinct service to the trade union movement for wrecking this alleged rail "union" that the highest court in the land calls "a mockery."

The moral effect of this decision will undoubtedly be felt in the industrial field.

GRUNDYISM MARCHES ON

Senator Grundy has been overwhelmingly defeated in the Pennsylvania primaries by Secretary of Labor Davis, but the spirit of Grundyism marches on.

Grundy, the individual, is driven into private life, but it will take more than one skirmish to defeat the things he typifies.

Grundyism and anti-unionism are identical.

Child labor, low wages, long hours and opposition to collective bargaining is another name for Grundyism. This citadel of injustice can not be overthrown by defeating one of its leading defenders.

The foundation of this stronghold must be demolished. This can be accomplished if the workers act with the same grim purpose and determination as when they marched to the polls at the recent Pennsylvania primaries.

Let no worker flatter himself that the defeat of an individual will check the army of wrong. Such individual is quickly replaced by one who is less frank in his defense of injustice. The system continues.

HIGH COURT SPLIT ON STATES' RIGHTS

Washington, May 31.—Judge-made law was sharply discussed in the quietness of the United States Supreme Court, when the right of the State of Missouri to levy an inheritance tax on bank accounts was denied. The accounts were owned by a resident of Illinois, who died in that State.

It was the first clear-cut division between the liberal and conservative blocs in the court since Chief Justice Hughes took office. The conservative group overruled the Supreme Court of Missouri.

Justice Holmes led the dissenters in a decision that declared, with Justices Brandeis and Stone concurring, that the conservative group considers there is "hardly any limit but the sky" to the whittling down of States' rights under the conservative interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

"I can not believe," continued the 89-year-old jurist, "that the amendment was intended to give this court a power to embody its economic or moral beliefs in its prohibitions."

The dissenting opinion accused the majority of departing from established precedents of the Supreme Court itself.

MEXICAN SUGAR BEET WORKERS EXPLOITED IN COLORADO FIELD

Denver, May 31.—The smug respectability of the Great Western Sugar Company and its treatment of imported Mexican workers and their families was shattered at the Catholic Conference on Industrial Relations, held in this city.

Statements by C. Y. Maddox, a company representative, were refuted by Thomas R. Mahoney of Longmont, this State, who investigated the sugar beet laborers' work and life.

Maddox claimed that the average Mexican family earns $847 annually. Mahoney replied that the average is $600 and that these are the company's figures.

Maddox soothingly explained that "unsightly" did not reach his average, as they lack the "initiative required." He acknowledged that Mexican families are imported but insisted they are not "chained to the soil," and are free to leave their employment. He said 90 per cent of these importations remain in Colorado and continue to work in the fields.

Delegates asked him why the company seeks unrestricted immigration from Mexico under such conditions but the company's representative was afflicted with faulty hearing at this time and failed to answer the query.

Mahoney pointed out that the Mexicans are denied any voice in the contract and there is no guarantee that they will be paid.

"Housing conditions in these fields are disgraceful," he said. "A survey by the Colorado Agricultural College shows that unsanitary surroundings are responsible for the high death rate among children of these families. In 18 families studied during one year there were 443 deaths of children.

"All employment to the contrary, young children, 6 to 15 years old, are employed in this hard manual labor," said Mahoney.

"During the winter months beet workers are destitute and must depend upon charity until the next beet season."

Wagner Urges Unemployment Bills; Nation Should Look Ahead, He Says

Washington, May 31.—"Prevention of unemployment is a distinctly national obligation," said Senator Wagner of New York in a radio address in which he urged passage by the House of three unemployment bills, introduced by him, that have been passed by the Senate.

"These bills can become law in time to prepare the country against next Winter's hardships," declared Senator Wagner. "Should the House be denied the opportunity to act on this legislation at the present session, the country will know exactly where to place the responsibility for our lack of economic preparedness when we undergo another severe attack of unemployment."

Senator Wagner declared unemployment today is not caused by local causes.

"The forces which makes for the shutdown of factories, the curtailment of activity in the mines and on the railroads, are forces which operate on a national and world-wide scale," he said.

"The individual workman, the individual business, the State, are helpless when an economic storm breaks upon the country. Only the co-ordinated strength of the National Nation is competent to deal with such powerful economic forces."

Senator Wagner's bills, as passed by the Senate, provide for the collection of unemployed data by the Government, the national planning of public works and the establishment of a nation-wide system of public employment offices, in conjunction with the States, to assist workers to find employment and to aid employers to get workers with the least amount of delay and with the least amount of friction.

The bill referring to unemployment agencies is opposed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Under this bill, federal aid will be granted to States that accept the principle of the bill.

HIGH LIVING STANDARD DEFEATS WHITE PLAGUE

Atlantic City, May 31.—Good economic conditions and not health prevention societies is the most effective weapon against tuberculosis, said Dr. Shirley W. Wynne, Health Commissioner of New York City, in an address to the New Jersey Hospital Association.

"We are trying to take credit for the decline in tuberculosis during the last 20 years," said Dr. Wynne. "Let us not fool ourselves or the public. This is not due to the preventative societies, but to the improved economic conditions under which the American people are now living."

The commissioner attacked the attitude of these societies for their methods in handling cases. He said entirely new methods of combating disease and a more conscientious cooperation on the part of doctors and nurses are necessary to insure the future of public health.

Last fall Dr. Wynne called on housewives to boycott unsanitary stores.

SLEEPING CAR PORTERS SUE PULLMAN COMPANY

St. Louis, May 31.—A score of Pullman porters have filed civil suits in the Circuit Court against that company because they were dismissed for refusing to vote in the company "union" and refusing to sign a "yellow dog" contract.

H. E. Fields, one of the porters, testified he has been in the company's employ for 15 years and was censured by officials and later dismissed for opposition to the company "union" and for signing a petition in behalf of the organized porters, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

Fields testified he was told if he voted for the company "union" his job would be immediately restored.

TOO MANY MACHINES INJURE INDUSTRY

New York, May 31.—The hosiery industry is affected by machinery and consequent overproduction. Several large companies have passed dividends that is the result of price cutting and excessive plant production.

Leaders in the industry complain that manufacturers of hosiery knitting machines sold large numbers of machines on easy terms to small mills. Increased output resulted.

Manufacturers agree that production must be restricted and stocks kept "within reasonable limits."

PICTURE PAINTING WON'T END IDLENESS

Denver, May 31.—Painting rosy pictures and optimistic talk won't end unemployment, said Dr. John A. Ryan of Washington in an address to the Catholic Conference on Industrial Relations in this city.

Over-production is the cause of unemployment and clever phrases can not conceal the result of machine installation, he said.

"Money to buy goods must exist not merely for the well-to-do, but for the masses. Workers must have high wages in order to make effective their demand for goods. Increased power to consume must be extended to the only class which possess in large measure the unsatisfied desire to consume.

"Instead of seeking to arouse new wants in the jaded appetites of the rich and well-to-do, why not supply the proper and reasonable wants of the toiling masses?"

CONSTRUCTION UP

Washington, May 31.—Building operations in the larger cities increased more than 11 per cent in April, as compared with March, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Permits for residential buildings were 8.6 per cent and for non-residential buildings 14.9 per cent higher.

WAGE WORKERS TRICKED TO BUY LIFE INSURANCE

Vancouver, B. C., May 31—Anti-union employers in this city are inducing workers to donate 15 cents a week for a $1,000 life insurance, which will be increased to $3,000 after 10 years' service.

The employers claim they contribute, but fail to state the amount. They also fail to state that they can discharge for any reason or no reason during these 10 years.

Employes of the anti-union Morris packing plant in Chicago had a bitter experience along these lines several years ago. They were induced to shun the union, accept low wages and contribute to a pension fund. When the company was taken over by a competitor, these employes asked for a court order to compel the company to fulfill its pension. The court refused, but ordered a return of contributions made to the fund by employes. Many of these workers were employed for 20 years at low wages, and remained outside the union in the belief that they would secure a pension.

FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK WINS IN SACRAMENTO

Sacramento, Calif., May 31.—The five-day work week in the local building industry has been accepted by organized employers and employed.

More than 4,000 mechanics are directly affected.

RADIO TRUST GOUGES FILM THEATER OWNERS

Washington, May 31.—The American Telephone and Telegraph Company has charged motion picture theater owners $25,000,000 more than they would have to pay independent manufacturers for the installation of sound equipment, C. C. Colby of the Audio Research Foundation told a Senate committee.

The witness said the company forced these theater owners to agree to pay an additional $50,000,000 for "service" during the next 10 years.

Earnest R. Reichmann, general counsel for the Radio Corporative Association, and other independent radio interests, told the committee that the Radio Corporation of America and its affiliates have for years used its power to create the impression that some way or other they have received the sanction of the government.

"Now, that this proposition has been discovered by the government's anti-trust suit, the radio monopoly would create the impression that that is merely a technical and abstruse legal proposition that has no relation to the public interest. This is further attempt to mislead the public and the public."

HOUSE MEMBERS FAVOR QUOTA FOR MEXICANS

Washington, May 31.—The Harris bill, that would establish an immigration quota for Mexicans, approved by the Senate, was favorably reported by the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

The bill was amended by including administration provisions of the Box bill which specifies that the Secretaries of State, Commerce and Labor shall jointly make the determination of the quota to be applied under the terms of the present immigration act.

The quota is opposed by the Department of State on the ground that this legislation might lead to ill feeling between the two countries and would hamper international negotiations on certain important matters, such as flood control on the borders and claims of American citizens against Mexico which involve many millions of dollars.

Opponents of restricted Mexican immigration protest against this competition with American labor, which destroys living standards in the West and Southwest.

The Department of State opposed restriction of Japanese immigration when Western States urged a stoppage of this cheap wage outflow. The Department pleaded that such restriction would create "ill feeling" with Japan.

TAX REFORM MEASURE SEEKS HIDDEN WEALTH

Springfield, Ill., May 31.—The State Senate approved a tax amendment to local measure passed upon by the people, which will give the legislature greater latitude in enacting tax laws. The resolution now goes to the House.

"We have a great hidden wealth amounting to something between $15,000,000,000 and $17,000,000,000, which is escaping its share of taxation," Governor Emmerson, in advocating the amendment.

"The best way to lower taxes is to bring to light this great amount of property which is now paying but a part of the cost of government, and forcing it to bear its fair share.

"Under our present revenue system three classes of property owners are being imposed upon—the home owner, the farmer and the small business man."

PROHIBITION POLL SHOWS WETS LEADING

New York, May 31.—A poll of 5,000,000 citizens on the prohibition issue, conducted by the Literary Digest, shows that 1,464,068, or 20 per cent, favor enforcement; 1,599,914, or 29 per cent, favor modification, and 1,943,052, or 40 per cent, favor repeal.

The vote indicates that 70 per cent favor either repeal or modification.

Only five States—Arkansas, Kansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee—went into the dry column. Five others, Connecticut, Louisiana, Nevada, New Jersey and Rhode Island, went absolutely wet.

Idleness Is Not Personal Issue; Beyond Control of Single Worker

Washington, May 31.—"The day is past when we can look upon unemployment as a personal matter, brought about by incompetence or indolence," said Congressman Prall of New York, in urging the House to act upon Senator Wagner's three unemployment bills that have passed the Senate.

"We can no longer consider that unemployment can be solved by the individual worker," said Mr. Prall.

"That is an obligation which is ours and the responsibility for its eradication is ours.

"Idleness spells for gross waste that once in red can never be recovered. Unemployment means withdrawal of savings-banks deposits and the further depletion of funds that are usually invested in mortgages upon new buildings, and in consequence of this withdrawal a cessation in building operations naturally further increases unemployment. In the first three months of this year it is estimated that labor alone lost a billion dollars in wages. Think what that amount taken out of circulation means to the business interests of the country.

"In summation, unemployment makes for civil disorder, disrupted family life, bad citizenship and discontent with government. This program of action, not perfect, but the best that the present state of our knowledge makes possible, has within it the seed of further development."

JUSTICE HOLMES IS AMERICA'S SEER

We have heard a great deal of late about the minority opinion becoming the majority opinion. This has been the history of our jurisprudence in matters involving social progress and broader definitions of human rights. It has been especially true of the remarkable forensic foresight which has characterized the notable dissents of Justice Holmes. It is not too much to say that these historic dissents amount almost to prophecy of what is certain to become the law.

In saying this I voice no disrespect or criticism of the majority of the court, but desire to emphasize the psychic ability of this extraordinary man to peer into the future and to forecast the social and economic needs of the Nation.—Congressman Francis D. Culkin.

GUARD RAIL WORKERS IN FUTURE MERGERS

Washington, May 31.—The Senate passed Senator Hawes' bill which amends the Interstate Commerce Act and is designed to protect employes' interests in the event of railroad consolidations.

The report on the bill states:

"The Interstate Commerce Commission, by this bill, is given power to preserve seniority, prevent loss of employment by older employes, and to prescribe, in an order which it may enter approving any acquisition or consolidation, such fair terms and conditions as it may find necessary or desirable to protect such employes from unreasonable injury resulting from such acquisition or control or consolidation."

The purpose of the Hawes' amendment is to check the policy of railroads merging and the abandonment of terminals and railroad divisions, which result in loss of property to these communities and also increase the unemployed army.

The standard railroad labor organizations oppose such consolidations without proper compensation to the victims.

SERVANTS NEED UNION, SAYS GOVERNOR'S WIFE

Philadelphia, May 31.—Unions for household workers was urged by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the Governor of New York, in an address before the Philadelphia Council on Household Occupations.

"Perhaps you will be shocked, but I believe in trade unions," said Mrs. Roosevelt. "If you want a responsible group of people to deal with, you have got to have unions of household workers and to enter an agreement with them on standards."

ONE-MAN CAR DECISION UPHELD BY HIGH COURT

Washington, May 31.—The United States Supreme Court refused to review a decision by the Circuit Court of Appeals, fifth circuit, which set aside a Shreveport (La.) city ordinance requiring two men to operate a street car in that city.

The lower court said modern safety appliances have created a change in conditions upon which the law was formerly held to be valid, and that, under the present requirement of two men on a car, the company was not able to earn a fair return on its investment, which amounted to a taking of property in violation of the Constitution.

DIAL TELEPHONES OUSTED BY SENATE

Washington, May 31.—The dial telephone system that operates without human aid, has been ousted from the Senate wing of the Capitol.

Senator Glass led the revolt against "efficiency." The Virginia lawmaker called up his resolution directing the sergeant-at-arms to remove these abominable dial telephones" removed at once and it went through with a whoop.

Senator Robinson offered a sarcastic observation. "The Senator (Glass) understands that the dial telephone is a great conservation measure," he said. "It results in the discharge of a number of employes."

"I object to being transformed into one of the employes of the telephone company without compensation," replied Glass.

The telephone management refuse to discuss this attack on its efficiency. The president of the company says the automatic system has not displaced any operator who is employed on a "permanent" basis. No comment was made when it was recalled that President Hoover refused to have a similar system installed in the White House.

The telephone officials agree that the public will not accept the new system if the question is discussed.

EMPLOYMENT DROP REPORTED IN STATE

Providence, R. I., May 31.—Employment decreased 4.3 per cent in 102 manufacturing establishments in this State during April, as compared with the end of March, according to the Rhode Island Department of Labor. The April figure was 14 per cent lower than at the same time a year ago.

Report from 27 building concerns show that 27.4 per cent more workers were employed in April than in March and 30 per cent more than in February, but the number was 5.5 per cent less than in April, 1929.

AUTOS KILLED 31,000

Washington, May 31.—Autos were responsible last year for 31,000 deaths and 1,000,000 injured, according to the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety.

There was one traffic accident every 16 minutes during the year. The fatalities increased by 2,513, or 8.2 per cent, over 1928.